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DE RUEHKB #0695/01 2451109  
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R 021109Z SEP 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BAKU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1674  
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 0145  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BAKU 000695

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/28/2019  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [KISL](#) [AJ](#) [IR](#)  
SUBJECT: IRAN POLITICS: TEHRAN UNIVERSITYSCHOLAR STRESSES  
POLITICAL ROLE OF MESBAH-YAZDI, SAYS IRAN UNDERGOING  
"HISTORIC TRANSFORMATION"

Classified By: Political/Economic Counselor Rob Garverick, Reason 1.4 ( B and D)

Summary  
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Summary -----

1. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX, told Baku Iran watcher that the latter is "more powerful than Ahmadinejad," and played a key role in the Iranian election  
2. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX  
Focus on Mesbah-Yazdi  
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3. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said that for several years he has been researching the life, ideology, and political activities of Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi  
4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said that Mesbah-Yazdi likes to work behind the scenes, and as a result his significance in current Iranian politics XXXX  
5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX contended that an historic transformation is currently going on in Iran, unifying wide ranges of classes and ages. He desc  
6. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX called Ayatollah Khomeini's June 19 sermon "the second transformational point." He asserted that after Khomeini's public s  
7. (C) In contrast to 1999, he continued, for many days "everybody" protested and/or shouted slogans from the rooftops: "North Tehranis, South  
8. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, "Phase Three" began with Rafsanjani's re-galvanizing sermon on July 17, and is currently ongoing. "Don't be  
Khomeini "Not Close to Ahmadinejad" -----  
9. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX observed that Supreme Leader Khomeini is not personally close to Ahmadinejad, or even strongly in favor of him, but is cau  
Opposition Use of Foreign Media and the Internet -----  
10. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX asserted that most Iranians are repulsed and embarrassed by the show trials, and despite nagging historical "default" sus  
11. (SBU) XXXXXXXXXXXX related that at three AM in Tehran University dorms, "you can't buy sweets, but can buy all kinds of narcotics," includ  
Obama/U.S. "Very Popular" in Iran -----  
12. (SBU) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, Iranians like President Obama very much, and appreciate his outreach efforts. "He's the only politician I